

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of February 25, 2008**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Melvin Adams, Selectmen Kenneth Johnson, Roger LeClair, Charles Morse, and Gregory Sanders. Also present were Manager Nanci Allard, Clerk Samantha Baraw, Police Chief Shaw, Warren Hagy (Listers), Meg Donahue-Davis (RSVP), Michael Donahue (Mayo Healthcare), Kim Morrow (E.F. Wall), Greg Lord (E.F. Wall), Charlene McCarney (Northfield Observances), Tony Moulton (Northfield Boys & Girls Club), Barbara Brayton (Northfield Boys & Girls Club), Mary Leahy (Central Vermont Adult Basic Education), Carroll Dunican (DeWitt Clinton Masonic Temple), Russ Barrett (Northfield Conservation Cooperative), Lawrence Garland (Northfield Conservation Cooperative), and Diane McKain (Northfield Conservation Cooperative).

A Public Hearing for the purpose of providing written or oral views on the Warned Town Articles to be voted upon by Australian Ballot at the Annual Town Meeting on March 4, 2008, was warned to immediately precede the Selectboard's regular meeting.

Chair Adams called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. He then opened the floor to any member of the public who wished to discuss the Australian Ballot articles (listed below).

Article 10. Shall bonds or notes of the Town of Northfield in an amount not to exceed nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) be issued for the purpose of constructing a new police station at 110 Wall Street? (Australian Ballot). Selectman Morse gave a brief overview of the history of the current Police Department building.

Article 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Northfield authorize the Town to exempt from local property taxation, to the extent of 50% of the appraised value, the land and premises of Mayo Healthcare, Inc., located at 71 Richardson Street, for a period of three (3) years, beginning 2008? (Australian Ballot). Michael Donahue stated that this is the same consideration that Mayo Healthcare has had in the past. They give much priority to Northfield residents, businesses, etc.

Article 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Northfield authorize the Town to exempt from local property taxation, to the extent of 40% of the appraised value, the land and premises of the DeWitt Clinton Masonic Temple, located at 151 South Main Street, for a period of three (3) years, beginning 2008? (Australian Ballot). Carroll Dunican stated that this is the same consideration that the DeWitt Clinton Mason Temple has had in the past. They support many community organizations.

Article 13. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$3000 for the Northfield Boys & Girls Club? (Australian Ballot). Tony Moulton spoke in favor of the request. This is 2% of their needed funding. They have increase in enrollment from 14 to 340 in a few years.

Article 14. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$2300 to pay for police coverage during the Labor Day weekend celebration (as requested by Northfield Observances)? (Australian Ballot). . Charlene McCarney spoke in favor of the request.

Article 15. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1500 for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program? (Australian Ballot). Meg Donahue-Davis spoke in favor of the request. They provide volunteers for twenty-five (25) organizations, four (4) of which are in Northfield.

Article 16. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1200 for Central Vermont Adult Basic Education? (Australian Ballot). Mary Leahy spoke in favor of the request. There were twelve (12) students from Northfield last year. The average cost is \$1200 per student. They serve students that are aged from 16 to 90. They provide free classes to people who need these services, such as computer skills, learning English, etc.

Article 17. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for the Battered Women's Services and Shelter? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 18. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for the Central Vermont Community Action Council? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 19. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for the Central Vermont Council on Aging? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 20. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$1000 for Good Beginnings of Central Vermont? (Australian Ballot). A letter was read to provide the following information: Good Beginnings provides ongoing home visits to seventeen (17) families; more than 100 welcome bags to each family; more than 100 books given to children, etc. All services are free of charge. Anyone with questions can contact Sara Nevin at 485-8430.

Article 21. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$950 for the Washington County Diversion Program? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 22. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$850 for the People's Health and Wellness Clinic? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 23. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for Central Vermont Crime Stoppers? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 24. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for the Family Center of Washington County? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 25. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$500 for the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Article 26. Shall the voters authorize the expenditure of \$350 for the Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County? (Australian Ballot). There was no discussion.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair to adjourn the public hearing. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The regular meeting began immediately.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **February 11, 2008 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

- a. **Warrant #17-08.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve Warrant #17-08 in the amount of \$35,891.47. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a. **Russ Barrett, Northfield Conservation Cooperative.** The group formed last March and is looking to be authorized by the voters as a Commission at Town Meeting (Article 9). The group has made gains, has held seven (7) events so far, and has secured grants for a Dog River Project. There's a website at www.northfield-vt-conservation.org. They will have a public informational meeting at the Brown Public Library on February 28, 2008 at 7:30 pm. There was a contract for the grant that the Conservation secured. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to authorize the Manager to sign the contract. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. **Status Reports: Various Projects.** Manager Allard had nothing to add.

VI. SELECTBOARD

- a. **2008 Liquor License Renewal Applications:**
 - 1. **Champlain Farms.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

2. **Cumberland Farms.** The application form was incomplete so this item will be tabled until additional information is received from the applicant.
 3. **Convenience Plus.** Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Morse, to remove the item from the table and approve the application. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
 4. **Grand Union Markets.** The application form was incomplete so this item will be tabled until additional information is received from the applicant.
 - b. **Executive Summary: Bilodeau Driveway Permit Application.** Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to approve the permit. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**
 - c. **2008 Annual Town Meeting: March 4, 2008.** The Open Session of the Town Meeting is at 10:00 a.m.; the Town will be going first and the School second.
 - d. **Town/Village Merger Committee update:** There were some handouts regarding the possible merger. The three (3) page handout will be provided to voters prior to the Town Meeting. There was no further discussion as this item will be a floor item next week at Town Meeting. A clarification was made that if there were ordinances in the Village, such as parking ordinances, they would be revoked by the Village and adopted by the Town.
 - e. **Status Reports: Various Projects:**
 1. **Highway Maintenance.** There was a memo from Highway Superintendent William Lyon regarding the “scrutiny” of the Town Highway Department and plowing. There was clarification offered. The Board was very pleased with the memo. There were no further questions regarding highway operations.
- VII. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Non-agenda items: None.
- VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman LeClair, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha H. Baraw

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.